

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Amendments

Before this Amendment, claims 1, 4-20 and 22-25 were pending in the Application. Claims 1, 14, and 20 are amended. Claim 25 is canceled, and no claims are added. Therefore, claims 1, 4-20, and 22-24 are present for examination, and claims 1, 14, and 20 are the independent claims. No new matter is added by these amendments. The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application as amended.

The Final Office Action dated January 3, 2006 ("Office Action") rejected claims 14-19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by the cited portions of U.S. Patent 5,978,451 to Swan et al. ("Swan"). The Office Action rejected claims 1, 4-13 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the cited portions of Swan in view of the cited portions of U.S. Patent 5,999,599 to Shaffer et al. ("Shaffer"). The Office Action rejected claims 1, 4-13 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Swan in view of Shaffer in view of the cited portions of U.S. Patent Pub. 2003/0152207 to Ryan ("Ryan").

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant notes with appreciation that claim 25 is allowable if rewritten in independent form. The independent claims 1, 14, and 20 have been amended to incorporate limitations of claim 25. Claims 1, 14, and 20 remain as the only independent claims. Each of the remaining dependent claims, claims 4-13, 15-19, and 22-24, is believed to be patentable by virtue of its dependence from a claim having limitations identified in the Office Action as rendering the claim allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

Appl. No. 10/644,667
Amdt. dated February 1, 2006
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 Expedited Procedure
Examining Group 2645

PATENT

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,



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